

Update

State Library Notes

A Word from Our State Librarian: Something happened in Helena on Monday, January 6th. The normal calm and laid-back atmosphere of the Capitol area has changed - something new (could it be a mixture of 60% anxiety and 40% hope?) is in the air. State employees might be just a bit more dressed up and we remember to wear our name-tags every day. I think these changes are caused by the addition of 150 people in our midst. Oh, yes, the 55th legislature is in session.

This session, the State Library is required to present testimony in two hearings instead of the customary one. On Friday, January 10, we are scheduled to present information about the Federations' use of the Coal Severance Tax to the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. On Tuesday, January 14, we present the State Library's budget to the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. I've presented testimony before but not as an agency director, so I confess, the butterflies are fluttering in increasingly faster spirals as these hearings approach.

I've received great support from the Montana State Library staff, many of whom have years of experience with legislators. Also, members of the library community, especially Lois Fitzpatrick, chair of MLA's Legislative Committee, have been very helpful in preparation and in moral support.

Other news? Is there any other now that the legislature has convened? Is there really life outside this cold Capitol Hill? There is no news from the other Capitol Hill about the new LSTA program. The new Institute of Museum and Library Services has not released the guidelines for the 1998 LSTA program. This means that the LSTA advisory council cannot decide further policy for our use of Federal funds. Much more later on this important issue.

Long range Plan? I'm 3/4 finished with collecting information from the library community. I have a meeting scheduled with the Academic and Special Libraries Division in March to solicit comments on the future of the Montana State Library. I plan to consolidate all information into a draft plan by mid March and go to each Federation spring meeting and the MLA conference in order to get feedback on the plan. My goal is to present the Commission with a plan for their approval at their June meeting.

Governor Racicot cut the red ribbon around the computers to signify the opening of our new automated system on December 2. The Governor spoke very eloquently about the services that libraries provide and their value to the community. It was a privilege to have him visit and listen to his words of support.

By this spring, you will notice a change in the appearance of this publication. A team of State Library staff is working on making suggestions to update the "Update." You can see changes already in this issue - the most prominent being the new logo for the State Library. Such changes may only be cosmetic, but I think that the way that our publications look and "feel" is symbolic of our organizational climate. I want our climate to be innovative, friendly, and action oriented. I hope that you will like our new look.

No. 49 January/February, 1997



Announcement: The January 24th Library Services meeting has been postponed due to lack of direction from the federal level on LSTA. The meeting will probably be rescheduled for late February or early March.

Correction: The November/December Update story on State Library home page improvements referred to the Legislative Council; it should have been the Legislative Services Division.

Directory Changes:

The 1997 Montana Library Directory was mailed to all the public, branch, academic, institutional, special and school libraries that sent in their requests. A few corrections:

Marilyn Trosper, E-mail: mtrosper@mtlib.org & Zipcode: 59860-0820 [Polson City Library, pg 20].

Greta Chapman, phone number: 406-293-7781x274 [Lincoln County Public Library, pgs 17 & 74].

Gloria Langstaff, E-mail address: glolang@montana.com [pg 14]

Emory Robotham, E-mail address: 2maizey@3rivers.net [Glasgow City County Library, pgs 14 & 74].

St. Regis Branch Library: hours: Monday and Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Thursday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Contact: Diane Gunderson at 406-444-5340 or dmgrande@msl.mt.gov for information on the directory or for directory requests.

Training Spots Available: On Friday, February 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Gard Hanks, the Continuing Education Consultant at the Idaho State Library, will be at the State Library in Helena to present a workshop on how to train adult learners. Fifteen State Library staff will attend and we have room for 5 more participants. If you

would like to attend please notify Mary Jane West at 444-3115 by January 30th. We will hold a random drawing and notify you on January 31 of the outcome. There is no charge for the workshop, but MSL can not provide travel funds. Contact Karen Strege at 444-3116.

1997 GIS Seminar Series: In 1996, Montana State Library provided day-long intensive training sessions to teachers, librarians, and students in the Kalispell, Billings, Lewistown, and Winnett areas through a cooperative program to give GIS software and data to interested Montana libraries. This year, we hope that the library and K-12 communities will continue to learn more about GIS. The seminars are open to anyone that has an interest in attending, so please help spread the word. They are a wonderful opportunity for the GIS and library communities to learn from one another, and to find out about projects around the state.

The next round of seminars will kick off on January 31st with a presentation by Larry Smith (invited speaker), of Montana Tech. Smith is scheduled to talk about how he has used GIS in his geology studies. Jackie Magnant, MSU, will give a presentation on the Local Government Coalition on February 28. On March 21, Jim Stimson, of the Water Information System will talk about using Access. Gerry Daumiller, NRIS, will speak about Color Models at the April 18th Seminar. The last talk before we break for summer is scheduled for May 23. Lee Shanklin, of Lewis & Clark County, will talk about using the Global Positioning System (GPS) to map city streets.

The seminars are held once a month, from September until May.

They are free, and appeal to a broad range of GIS users or interested parties. If a seminar focuses on a software specific issue, it will be announced in the flyer that is sent out the week before the presentation. They are held in the Conference Room at the Montana State Library. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, want more details, or are interested in getting GIS in your library, contact Kris Larson at 406-444-5691.

Commission News

The State Library Commission met December 4th in Helena. They awarded \$100,000 of 1997 LSCA Title II construction funding to Twin Bridges joint School Public Library project. They also approved expenditure of \$15,696 of LSCA Title II funds for a Montana Access Project as recommended by State Librarian Karen Strege, which will provide Internet access for at least five additional libraries in the state. The balance of the Title II funds go to NorCentralNet, an automation project in Havre-Hill County.

The Commission received the final figures on the grant award for 1997 LSCA Title I and III funds. With the available dollars, grant projects will be funded for technology-related projects in Sidney, Missoula, and Libby.

Discussion continued on interlibrary loan reimbursement between libraries within the same taxing district. The Commission directed the State Librarian to pursue options for adopting administrative rules changes on interlibrary loan eligibility. Strege also agreed to direct a task force to study the issue over the next few months.

Michael Schulz of Dillon was

elected Chair of the State Library Commission for Calendar Year 1997; Dorothy Laird, Whitefish, was chosen as Vice-Chair.

Commission meeting dates for 1997 are: January 29, April 16, June 18, August 14, October 15 and December 3. The April meeting will be held via MetNet; and the August meeting will occur at the Williams K. Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge. The other meetings will be held at the State Library.

Strege's goals for 1997:

1. MSL staff provides excellent services to all users. The mission and goals of the organization guide their work.

2. MSL is a leader in providing state and federal government information to citizens of Montana.

3. MSL operates an LSTA program that is responsive to its constituents and provides funding for statewide programs that improve library services.

4. The State Librarian is an effective and successful advocate for MSL programs and all Montana libraries in the legislative and executive division of Montana and the United States.

Public Library News

Dave Pauli resigned his position as Director of the Missoula Public Library effective January 10, 1997. He has accepted a position as a library director in Michigan.

Montana News

Victoria York, acting associate professor at the Montana State University Libraries, will undertake a four-month fellowship at the

faculty of Applied Social Studies and the Department of Information Science & Documentation of the University of Brasilia in Brazil. York will train students, faculty and government librarians in the use of the Internet and CD-ROMs.

MLA Legislation Update:

Representative Ray Peck, from Havre, has agreed to sponsor the Montana Library Association's proposal to provide funds to buy licenses for electronic databases. This bill, which Representative Peck plans to introduce in February, would authorize the State library Commission to administer and adopt rules for the program. The appropriations side of the bill would provide funds for electronic databases and training in their use. Contact: Lois Fitzpatrick, chair, MLA Government Affairs Committee at 406-447-4525.

National News

Supreme Court to review CDA challenge:

The U.S. Supreme court announced that it will hear the government's appeal of a landmark legal challenge to the Communication Decency Act passed last February by Congress. The case, which will determine the future of freedom of speech in cyberspace, is expected to be heard in late March or early April. A special panel of three federal judges in Philadelphia ruled the Act unconstitutional in June. The lead plaintiff is the ALA.

The Fund for American's Libraries, the foundation of the ALA, has launched a fundraising campaign to support the association's legal challenge. The goal is to raise \$350,000 from ALA members and supporters for legal expenses.

ALA's Connecticut Chapter has contributed \$500 to the campaign and is challenging other ALA chapters to match the total contribution or the amount per member, which is 50 cents.

Contact: ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom, 800-545-2433x4223 or E-mail: oif@ala.org.

Reading/discussion materials focus on the West:

Materials for presenting the latest ALA Public Programs reading and discussion program series are now available. Contact: ALA, Order Fulfillment, 800-545-2433x5045 or E-mail: malittle@ala.org.

FCC report endorses deep

discounts: Preliminary recommendations by the Federal-State Joint Board of the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] endorsed key proposals by the ALA for significant discounts on a wide range of telecommunications services for libraries and schools.

The Joint Board voted unanimously in favor of discounts ranging from 20 to 90 percent with deeper discounts for libraries and schools in rural, high-cost and low-income communities.

ALA scholarship application is due April 1, 1997:

The deadline for ALA scholarships for students beginning master's degree studies is April 1, 1997, not December 1, 1996, as stated in an earlier ALA release. Contact: Office for Library Personnel and Resources, 800-545-2433x4281.

ALA Membership:

The theme for this year's ALA membership drive is "Here Comes the Information Superhighway." ALA believes that as the emerging superhighway sweeps the nation with electronic

information, libraries could be pushed aside. But you can help prevent it. Contact: 800-545-2433.

Count on Reading: Count on reading challenges the nation's young people to read a billion books and to become avid readers and library users. Anyone who would like to sponsor a reading initiative or is currently sponsoring one may submit a count. Book award programs, public library summer reading programs are among the programs that can be counted. Contact: Count on Reading 800-545-2433x4389.

Top 10 reasons why rural libraries and librarians need the Internet:

10. Improve Computer Literacy: There must be a place in every community where citizens can go and work on a computer. Not using a computer in the Information Age is like not adopting machine use during the Industrial Revolution.

9. Stay Current: Libraries no longer operate in a business-as-usual atmosphere.

To remain the source for current and exciting information library administrators must embrace the Internet as a viable and vital information source.

8. Connect to the World: The Internet will allow rural patrons to connect to information, places, and most importantly, people, from throughout the world. Imagine young patrons being able to E-mail children in Bosnia. It is reality -- today -- on the Internet.

7. Access to More Information: Electronic publishing is flooding the Internet. There is compelling and important information only available via this resource.

6. Save Money: Many expensive print reference resources can be downloaded or accessed via the Internet. This will alleviate the cost for libraries to replace this information each year, plus it will free up shelf space. Dare we suggest the possible alleviation of expansion of building? Reutilization of existing space may be the answer.

5. Relieve Isolation: Through the Internet, patrons can interact with special interest groups from throughout the country. By producing a World Wide Web [WWW] homepage and/or by providing E-mail accounts, rural libraries invite the "world" into their building.

4. Network with Colleagues: Imagine staffing a small library and having questions

as to how to best provide service. Via the Internet, librarians have access to discussion groups within the profession which offer strategies and solutions to common problems and concerns. No problem or question is too small for the Internet. No one has to operate "alone" anymore.

3. Provide Leadership Role: Librarians have traditionally been thought of as information specialists. By providing Internet access within the community, they are once again filling the shoes of the information expert - the one who is in the "know."

2. Equalization of Information: Patrons living in rural areas should not be penalized because they do not have access to the same information as a patron living in an urban area. The library is the logical place to provide that equity of access.

And, the number one reason rural libraries should connect to the Internet is:

1. It's a matter of trust! Patrons expect the library to be the source of information. If the library doesn't connect, then patrons will find somewhere else that will, and it probably won't be free, and therefore, not equal. For generations the library has been the trusted place for new and compelling information provided freely in a variety of formats. It's time to continue that tradition.

[Reprinted from the "Rural Library Services Newsletter," January/February 1996.

Calendar

January 20
January 29

Martin Luther King Day-State Holiday
Commission Meeting, Helena

February 14-20
February 17
March 20-22

ALA Midwinter Meeting-Washington D.C.
President's Day-State Holiday
Public Library Association's 1997 Spring Symposium
[formerly known as the Chicago Coluster Workshops].
Contact: PLA at 800-545-2433x5PLA

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